

## INVESTING IN PEOPLE: HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Consecutive seasons of failed rains, a rapidly growing population, increased inflation, endemic poverty, and limited government capacity have led to chronic food insecurity and water shortages in large areas of Ethiopia, including Somali Region and parts of Oromiya, Afar, Tigray, Amhara, and Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples (SNNP) regions. Despite recent improvements in food security, depleted coping mechanisms have left populations susceptible to malnutrition and disease, as well as shocks such as drought or flooding.

### HUMANITARIAN CHALLENGES

Drought conditions in Ethiopia have compounded other challenges, including conflict, a rapidly growing population, increased inflation, and endemic poverty. An influx of Somali refugees into southern Ethiopia has put further strain on relief and government agencies. Relief agencies expect drought conditions to continue to worsen through the peak of the dry season in September. As of early August, there were 4.8 million people countrywide in need of humanitarian assistance, according to the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF).

### PROGRAM GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The mandate of USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) is to save lives, alleviate human suffering, and reduce the economic and social impact of disasters. In Ethiopia, USAID/OFDA prioritizes emergency response and disaster risk reduction activities for current and impending shocks. Priority sectors include nutrition, water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), and agriculture and food security.



USAID/OFDA highlights coordination and linkages with USAID Ethiopia and other donors to identify transition strategies from an emergency context to longer term development, as well as facilitates coordination among donors, non-governmental organizations, and U.N. agencies to identify gaps and respond to evolving needs.

USAID/OFDA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FY 2011*	
Agriculture and Food Security	\$2,742,158
Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	\$1,650,000
Logistics and Relief Commodities	\$1,440,842
Nutrition	\$14,008,777
WASH	\$5,417,417
Protection	\$51,040

### OFDA HUMANITARIAN SECTORS

**Nutrition:** USAID/OFDA provides health staff training and ready-to-use therapeutic foods throughout the country for the detection and treatment of severe acute malnutrition through the National Community Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) program. USAID/OFDA also supports nutritional surveys and rapid assessments, nutrition education, and monitoring of newly trained staff.

In response to an increased need for nutrition interventions, USAID is supporting UNICEF to expand services for severely malnourished children through therapeutic feeding sites and mobile health and nutrition units. As of August 1, UNICEF had treated approximately 154,000 malnourished children in six drought-affected regions of Ethiopia.

**Agriculture and Food Security:** USAID/OFDA supports the Global Hunger and Food Security (GHFS) Initiative through two early release GHFS programs, focusing on asset protection, asset diversification, and market linkage development to improve food security and protect livelihoods. USAID/OFDA also supports drought-affected pastoralists through the provision of veterinary medicine, supplementary feed, and destocking services interventions.

\*Note: Funding totals as of August 9, 2011. For updated funding information, please visit our website: [http://www.usaid.gov/our\\_work/humanitarian\\_assistance/disaster\\_assistance/countries](http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/countries)

**WASH:** USAID/OFDA supports emergency WASH activities to mitigate the larger health and malnutrition crises. Activities include the rehabilitation of wells, rainwater harvesting, and catchment systems to improve access to safe drinking water for vulnerable populations, as well as emergency water trucking. In addition, USAID/OFDA puts significant emphasis on sanitation and hygiene education. Sanitation activities include promotion of household latrine use. Participatory hygiene techniques promote hand washing, clean and safe water storage, and sanitation improvements through-community driven decision making, and community management of water and sanitation facilities.



## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- **Pastoral Livelihoods Initiative II (PLI-II) Crisis Modifier**
  - The PLI-II Crisis Modifier provides direct funding to USAID/Ethiopia to protect development gains during times of shock. Small grants allow partners to provide a quick response in the event of a small/localized issue that would otherwise set back the larger development activities. Activities are generally no longer than a few months.
- **Global Hunger and Food Security Initiative (GHFS)**
  - Revitalizing Agricultural/Pastoral Livelihoods and New Markets (RAIN) is a strategic three-year intervention in Somali and Oromiya regions to protect, promote, and diversify livelihoods as a means of increasing household resilience to shocks.
  - The Market-led Livelihood Recovery and Enhancement Program (MLREP) protects, diversifies, and increases the assets of food insecure households through the promotion of marketable agricultural production and improved access to financial capital.
- **Rapid Response Programs (Nutrition and WASH)**
  - USAID/OFDA funds two rapid response programs to provide support to those affected by flooding, displacement, fire, other sudden onset emergencies, and malnutrition.
  - USAID/OFDA maintains pre-funding for interventions in the nutrition and WASH sectors. Rapid response programs allow USAID/OFDA the flexibility to quickly respond to humanitarian needs, prioritizing life-saving interventions.

### KEY IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

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<b>Non-governmental Organizations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adventist Development and Relief Agency</li> <li>• CHF International</li> <li>• Food for the Hungry</li> <li>• International Medical Corps</li> <li>• International Rescue Committee</li> <li>• Merlin</li> <li>• Mercy Corps</li> <li>• Save the Children/US</li> </ul>	<b>United Nations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UN Department of Safety and Security</li> <li>• UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)</li> <li>• UNICEF</li> <li>• UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)</li> <li>• World Food Program (WFP)</li> </ul>